

From: Paul Baker
To: Junge, Rahe (WR)
Date: 11/24/04 2:21PM
Subject: Germination

Please file
M 1037/027

Rahe--

I did a simple germination test on the seed sample you sent me. The seed labs use very controlled temperatures, humidity, and light conditions, and I just used a damp paper towel in a covered (not sealed) Tupperware container. The wheatgrasses and Russian wild rye have little dormancy, and I got a germination rate of about 65%. Since this was not done the same as the lab, it may be a little lower than what's shown on the label.

Nearly all of the sweet clover or alfalfa grew. Most of the other species often have a lot of dormancy, so low percentages are expected. None of the Indian ricegrass germinated (I would have been surprised if it did--it doesn't grow well in the lab). 2 of 8 fourwing saltbush seeds grew and 3 of 13 penstemon. I didn't keep track of the rabbitbrush, but there were several seedlings.

The bottom line is that the seed appears to be pretty good. If I had concerns about its quality, I would recommend you send a sample to a lab for testing, but I don't think that's necessary.

Paul